



The LIFE Initiative
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People and Livestock is an occasional newsletter for those interested in promoting socially and ecologically responsible livestock development. It is produced by the League for Pastoral Peoples with support from Misereor.

Please send news and contributions to the editor, Evelyn Mathias, evelyn@mamud.com, Weizenfeld 4, 51467 Bergisch Gladbach, Germany

Design & layout:
Paul Mundy,
paul@mamud.com

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League for
pastoral peoples
www.pastoralpeoples.org

People *and* Livestock

Socially and ecologically responsible development

Focus: Putting livestock keepers first

After several years of neglect, livestock is getting back on the agenda of government and development circles (see, for example, the launch of the ALIVE initiative described in *PaL* issue 1). Cities and populations in the South are growing and with them the demand for livestock products. This, the liberalization of trade plus other reasons are stimulating the expansion of industrial livestock production in developing countries, revolutionizing their livestock sectors. At the same time, livestock keepers, especially in marginal areas, are witnessing that their water sources and grazing land – heretofore common resources – rapidly shrink due to politics and development-related factors. Deprived of the basis for their livelihoods, many pastoralists and smallholders have to give up. How can outsiders help those poor livestock keepers who would like to continue livestock keeping in a changing world?

What are the alternatives?

Past development approaches commonly focused on raising animal productivity and maximizing production of meat, milk and eggs. But many such efforts bypassed the poor. Recently, vertical integration and contract farming have started coming high on the list of favoured solutions. However, they combine high labour productivity with low employment – questionable in countries with big populations of small-scale farmers and pastoralists and few employment options for all those dropping out of agriculture.

Other alternatives seem more promising. They include empowering poor livestock keepers to argue for their rights, helping them build strong associations, and securing access to grazing land, water resources, services, education and markets.

Strengthening the resilience of livestock keepers

Endogenous people-centred livestock development (PCLD) pursues the latter alternatives. It centres on people rather than animals, and seeks to support the resilience of livestock keeping households, for instance by securing access to land and grazing rights. Strategies include initiating a dialogue with politicians and scientists, linking people with support institutions, and helping them explore niche markets and voice their needs. Other strategies include lobbying for the legalization of informal markets, lowering animal mortality in low-input husbandry systems, and helping people to fulfil the required standards of hygiene and (zoonotic) disease control.

PCLD recognizes that for pastoralists and small-scale farmers, livestock fulfils multiple functions going beyond production. Another important element is respect of indigenous knowledge and local culture. PCLD seeks to integrate local and modern knowledge, drawing on various field-tested methodologies and approaches developed since the 1970s. Examples are participatory appraisal methods, the use

Note to readers

Several contributors have sent summaries of articles and field research for inclusion in this issue.

Short contributions for future issues are very welcome (maximum of 500 words). The editors reserve the right to edit contributions and adapt them to the style of the newsletter. We are also happy to include announcements you may have, provided they are relevant to the focus of this newsletter. Please send any information to the editor, Evelyn Mathias, evelyn@mamud.com.

Respecting indigenous knowledge does not mean romanticizing it

of indigenous knowledge, participatory technology development, ethnoveterinary medicine, and many more.

Respecting and valuing local knowledge and culture, however, does not mean romanticizing them. Only by keeping a critical distance, combined with an impartial and open attitude, will outsiders be able to support pastoralists, small-scale farmers and landless livestock keepers in their struggle to adapt to the ongoing change and realize their own concept of livestock development.

For further information, contact Katrien van't Hooft, katrien.hooft@etcnl.nl or Evelyn Mathias, evelyn@mamud.com. Unpublished concept note available.

Milking drylands: Gender networks, pastoral markets and food security in stateless Somalia

Michele Nori

Somali women's initiative to commercialize camel milk

Food and social insecurity in marginal drylands is of increasing concern, as global political, climatic and economic dynamics contribute to reshape the livelihoods of pastoral communities from Sub-Saharan Africa to Central Asia. Market integration of pastoral livelihoods and globalisation of their economies represent important development options, but they also entail risk. The case of Somalia is particularly interesting, given the importance of pastoralism in local livelihoods, the high degree of integration into global markets, and the lack of a central state for more than a decade.

Pastoralism is central to Somali society. It is the major source of food and income for about 60% of the population (meat and milk alone provide 55% of national calorie intake). It is a major asset for the economy, with more than 3 million animals exported a year, accounting for 40% of Somali GDP and about 80% of hard currency earnings. Since the collapse of the central state in 1991, different situations have evolved throughout the country. In southern Somalia insecurity is still rampant and development lags, but elsewhere in the country communities have been able to create effective conditions for local governance and endogenous development.

Camels are particularly relevant to pastoralism: Somalia has more than 6 million of them, the largest number in the world. Camel milk has nurtured, treated and blessed generations of Somalis. It has recently been commercialized in some parts of the country, as a way to ensure food security, generate income and provide a buffer against critical situations. Enterprising women have developed a complex system of processing and marketing milk. This involves sophisticated resource management, high territorial mobility, robust social capital and low transaction costs.

The Milking Drylands research initiative, sponsored by the EC Marie Curie programme, addresses the development of camel milk marketing in Somalia. It aims to increase understanding of the economic and social functioning of complex and shifting pastoral livelihood systems. It uses a livelihood perspective to investigate socio-economic changes, with a specific focus on the role gender, clan structures and central state control play in pastoral markets. Comparative studies include cases from markets in Puntland (NE Somalia), Ogaden (the Somali region of Ethiopia) and Kenya (NE provinces). Research efforts will also try to link with similar situations in other parts of the world (Mauritania, Mongolia, Rajasthan, and others). The overall research objective is to provide options for sensitive interventions that stimulate and support endogenous development in pastoral areas.

More information

michele.nori@wur.nl, Rural Sociology, Wageningen University

How Borana pastoralists use resources

Based on publications by Sabine Homann et al. (see below)

“Development” makes pastoralists more likely to stay in one place – so they are less able to use resources in an optimal way

Mobility enables pastoralists to exploit differing environments and graze their animals throughout the year. Borana herders in southern Ethiopia have ample knowledge and experience and special decision-making structures to organise their herd movements and coordinate with other pastoral groups in the area. Government interventions and other development efforts have had little impact on the Borana, or have even worsened their situation. A new approach is needed that takes indigenous mobility concepts into account and builds on institutional co-operation in natural resource management.

To develop concepts for the participatory planning of pastoral resource use, Sabine Homann conducted a study in southern Ethiopia in 2000-2002 in cooperation with the Borana Lowlands Pastoral Development Programme (BLPDP/GTZ). The study focused on two sites (Dida Hara and Web) which had been affected in different intensities by government interventions, and by a higher population density. Natural resources and herd movements were mapped using participatory rapid appraisal tools, official maps and a geographical information system (computer mapping software). Socioeconomic characteristics of 60 households and their herd movements during and after the last drought were analysed.

Herd mobility differed between the two locations: after drought it was pronounced in Web but barely existent in Dida Hara, which had been more strongly affected by development interventions than Web. Mobility during drought was similar at both locations, as herd movements were driven by the crisis. The pastoralists had reduced their mobility and their use of indigenous-knowledge-based range management strategies. Power structures were weak, and conflicts occurred.

However, Borana pastoralists still had considerable organizational and management capabilities. These could become the basis for new concepts of resource use in the Borana rangelands. Co-management integrating indigenous-knowledge-based range management and formal administration might be an appropriate solution, but would require a strong external support and official recognition from the Ethiopian government.

Sources on resource use by Borana pastoralists

Indigenous knowledge of Borana pastoralists in natural resource management: A case study from southern Ethiopia

Homann, Sabine. 2005. Cuvillier Verlag, Goettingen, 258 pp.

www.cuvillier-verlag.de

Herd mobility leads the way for sustainable pastoral development:

The case of Borana rangelands, southern Ethiopia

Homann, Sabine, Barbara Rischkowsky, and Jörg Steinbach. Paper presented at “Deutscher Tropentag 2004: International Research on Food Security, Natural Resource Management and Rural Development”, Berlin, 5–7 October 2004.

www.tropentag.de/2004/abstracts/full/57.pdf

Integrating the indigenous knowledge of Borana pastoralists into rangeland management strategies in southern Ethiopia

Homann, Sabine, and Barbara Rischkowsky, June 2005. *IK Notes* 81.

www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/iknt81.htm

Potentials and constraints of indigenous knowledge for sustainable range

and water development in pastoral land use systems of Africa: A case study in the Borana lowlands of southern Ethiopia

Homann, S., D. Dalle, and B. Rischkowsky. (2004). Tropical Support Programme Publication (TOEB), GTZ, Eschborn, 123 pp.

www2.gtz.de/toeb/scripts-e/publikationen/download.asp?PublikationsID=283

Herbal ointments treat bacterial skin disease of cattle

A study in Benin found that ointments made from ethanolic leaf extracts of *Cassia alata*, *Lantana camara* and *Mitracarpus scaber* can treat dermatophilosis. When applied once a day for 8–15 days to the chronic crusty or acute lesions of nine infected cattle, crusts fell off after 3–4 days of treatment. Hair grew back on the treated areas, without scars, within 3–4 weeks after the end of the treatment. The animals became free of dermatophilosis without reoccurrence for more than 3 years, and remained in good health. This contrasts with experiences with the injection of oxytetracyclin, terramycin long acting (TLA) or procain-penicillin, which are commonly used for the treatment of dermatophilosis in Benin but cannot prevent the recurrence of the disease.

Source: Ali-Emmanuel, N., M. Moudachirou, J.A. Akakpo and J. Quetin-Leclercq. 2003. "Treatment of bovine dermatophilosis with *Cassia alata*, *Lantana camara* and *Mitracarpus scaber* leaf extracts". *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 86(2/3):167–171.

Participatory validation of medicinal plants for livestock diseases of pastoralists in Kenya

Jacob Wanyama, *Vetaid Mozambique (formerly ITDG-East Africa)*

Since 1996, ITDG East Africa has been implementing a participatory project to validate, improve and promote the use of effective ethnoveterinary knowledge and practices, and to influence the attitudes of veterinary professionals towards ethnoveterinary medicine. For example, the project has validated three ethnoveterinary remedies for internal parasites in sheep.

Project components have included collaborative partnerships, capacity building (e.g., ethnoveterinary practices included in animal health training programmes), extension materials, and policy work. Thirty ethnoveterinary practitioners (local healers) have been involved, each representing about 100 households – meaning that about 3000 households benefited directly from the project. Many others have benefited indirectly.

The project facilitated the formation of the *Kenya Working Group on Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Species*, through which a national strategy on research and development of these plants has been developed. The project has also been promoting appropriate intellectual property rights regimes that recognize practitioners' property rights.

Source: Conroy (2005) pp. 175–84 (see Publications below)

Rajasthan's pastoralists get organized

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

The Indian state Rajasthan has a rich pastoralist heritage. But its land-use and agricultural policies do not reflect this. Although livestock contributes 19% to the state's gross domestic product, the Ministry of Animal Husbandry receives less than 1% of the government's resources for this sector. Because of policies that support Green Revolution agriculture and cross-breeding with exotic breeds, the state's groundwater supplies are running dry, while indigenous and drought-adapted animal genetic resources, including the camel and several sheep breeds, are experiencing a stark population decline.

Medicinal plants can be validated through participatory methods with ethnoveterinary practitioners

Livestock contributes 19% of Rajasthan's gross domestic product, but receives less than 1% of the government's funding

Rajasthan's pastoralists are organizing across caste and gender lines – perhaps for the first time ever

Facilitated by the Rajasthan-based non-government organizations KRAPAVIS and Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan, about 40 pastoralists met on 12–13 June 2005 at the KRAPAVIS centre in Bakhtpura near Alwar to discuss their situation and how to make their voice heard. The meeting can be called historical: it was probably the first ever to transgress the traditional social boundaries of caste and gender, and was attended by both men and women from different pastoralists groups from Rajasthan.

Throughout the meeting, there were calls for unity among Rajasthan's diverse pastoralists communities, and the need for creating a state-level *sangatan* (association) was emphasized. Such a *sangatan* would have multiple functions: raising the voice of pastoralists, pressurizing the government to consult pastoralists in policy development, marketing products, protecting local livestock breeds, saving the pastoralists' culture, fighting corruption, developing leadership, saving the environment, and gaining self-confidence. Under the guidance of pastoralist leaders, especially Bhopala Ram Raika, and the supporting NGOs, a detailed road-map was chalked out for building the association. Responsibilities for enrolling members by 30 September were shared on a regional basis between the participants. Pastoralists also agreed to offer hosting an Asia-level meeting of pastoralists that is planned in the context of the Global Environmental Facility-supported World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP).

The Alwar meeting was supported by the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development. It was enriched by the presence of Daoud Tari from the Ethiopia-based Pastoralist Communication Initiative, and Sylvio Simonit from UNDP's land degradation unit.

More information

ilse@pastoralpeoples.org

Sangeeta Rangnekar

We regret to announce the death in April of Ms Sangeeta D. Rangnekar, President of the Women Organisation for Rural Development (WORD). She will be remembered as a skilled field researcher of livestock and gender issues dedicated to helping poor and marginalised livestock keepers. Our condolences to her husband, Dr Datta Rangnekar, who has also been a devoted supporter of small-scale livestock keepers in India and worldwide.

Publications

Participatory livestock research: A guide

Conroy, Czech. 2005. ITDG Publishing. £16.95 or US\$29.95

Based on the author's knowledge and using examples from many different projects around the world, the book for livestock researchers and practitioners describes best practices in participatory research. It shows how to undertake

needs assessment using participatory approaches, and how to avoid the problems associated with on-farm livestock experiments.

www.developmentbookshop.com/detail.aspx?ID=687

Livestock and livelihoods: Who wins and who loses?

McCorkle, Constance M. 2004. *Culture &*

Agriculture 26(1/2): 53–59

An analysis of publications on animal agriculture from an integral human development perspective.

PTD / PID Circular: Periodic update on participatory technology/innovation development

No. 14 (March 2005) contains an extensive annotated list of publications where authors can publish

experiences in participatory development.

www.prolinnova.net/circular.php

Indigenous Knowledge Newsletter: For community rights and sustainable development

E-newsletter on how best to protect indigenous knowledge.

www.genecampaign.org

Sustaining animal health and food safety in organic farming

Online proceedings of a workshop organized by the SAFO Network in 2005.

www.safonet.org/workshops/ws4/present/index.html

Women livestock managers in the Third World: A focus on technical issues related to gender roles in livestock production

Niamir-Fuller, M. 1994. International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome

Examines women's technical knowledge of and involvement in livestock production in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and provides guidelines on how these issues can be incorporated in IFAD's project cycle to the benefit of rural women.

www.ifad.org/gender/thematic/livestock/live_toc.htm

Coming up

COHAB 2005: First International Conference on the Importance of Biodiversity to Human Health

Galway Radisson SAS Hotel, Galway, Ireland, 23–25 August 2005

Focus on biodiversity and ecosystem services to global and human health and international development, biodiversity's role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and the risks to human health and welfare.

Contact Nigel Malcolm info@cohab2005.com

www.cohab2005.com

European Agrobiodiversity Day

Falls on 24 September this year. It aims to inform people about the status and conservation efforts of the genetic resources in different European countries.

Contact office@save-foundation.net

www.save-foundation.net

Opportunities for village chickens to assist with poverty alleviation

International conference, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 5–7 October 2005.

Emphasis on control of Newcastle disease

Contact sandcp@tropical.co.mz

www.kyeemafoundation.org

Conservation: The future

Magalies Park Conference Centre, North-West Province, South Africa, 9–13 October 2005

6th Global Conference on the Conservation of Domestic Animal Genetic Resources, organized by Farm Animal Conservation Trust, Agricultural Research Council, and Rare Breeds International (RBI).

Contact Anelja de Bok, anelja@gogirlevents.co.za

Conservation and utilization of indigenous animal genetic resources

Chiapas, Mexico, 7–10 November 2005

Sixth Iberoamerican Symposium co-organized by CYTED, the Spanish Agency of Science and Technology for Development, and the University of Chiapas. In Spanish and Portuguese.

Contact cytedchiapas@yahoo.com.mx

15th IFOAM Organic World Congress

Adelaide, Australia, 20–23 September 2005

www.nasaa.com.au/ifoam2005

Links

Domestic Animal Diversity Network (DAD-Net)

Provides an informal forum for discussion of management of animal genetic resources at national, regional and international levels. Managed by the Animal Production and Health Division of FAO. Registration is free. DAD-IS also publishes the *Animal Genetic*

Resources Bulletin

Contact DAD-IS@fao.org

www.fao.org/dad-is

Search engines for scientific literature

Google Scholar and Scirus are easy-to-use search engines for scientific literature such as diploma and doctoral theses, books and papers.

www.scholar.google.com

www.scirus.com

CTA digital library and newsletters on agricultural development

CTA, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, based in the Netherlands, produces a wide range of information materials on agriculture and rural development in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). Many of these books are available online. The bimonthly

newsletter *Spore*, and an online daily newsletter about EU policies relevant to ACP countries are also available online.

CTA website: www.cta.int

Online publications: www.anancy.net

Spore: <http://spore.cta.int/>

EU policy newsletter: <http://brussels.cta.int/>